SECRET

Office Memorandum • United States Government

TO

: GENERAL TAYLOR

Lt Col O'Neill DATE: 28 March 1959

FROM : 303 47

SUBJECT: Soviet Maneuvers

- 1. Attached DCSOPS S/S is responsive to your request that consideration be given to the possible exploitation of inconsistencies between Khrushchev's statements of peaceful coexistence and the extensive Soviet maneuvers which were concluded in East Germany on 24 March 59.
- 2. DCSOPS, with ACSI concurring, recommends that DA not release the information on Soviet maneuvers but that the matter be discussed informally at the next meeting of the DOD Coordinating Group (Cold War).

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ODCSOPS, SPWAR Division 73105

Major F. B. Kane, Jr.

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Soviet Maneuvers (U)

25 MAR 1959

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DISCUSSION

- 1. (8) This action is designed to consider whether or not to exploit inconsistencies between the statements and actions of the Soviet Government during the period of the Berlin crisis.
- 2. (8) The Soviet Union is presently conducting the most extensive maneuvers for this time of year ever carried out in East Germany (see Tab B). This maneuver will be concluded 24 March 1959. At the same time Premier Khrushchev is preclaiming to the Free World that the Western Pewers are making threats against the Soviet Union whose desire is peaceful coexistence between states of different social systems (see Tab C).
- 3. (5) The above inconsistencies could be emphasized to the peoples of the Free World. Army Intelligence has available information on the extent of Soviet maneuvers in East Germany. This information could be released to the Free World Press by an official ammouncement by the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army, military officials in Europe or by an unofficial release to the Press in the United States (see Tab A). If the infermation is released without coordinating with the Department of State, its release may not be in support of current foreign policy.
- 4. (S) The release of this information at the present time might precipitate Soviet reaction designed to curtail further the intelligence collection effort. Such curtailment would be highly undesirable at this particular time.
- 5. (S) The conduct of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combined joint atomic strike and air defense exercises 13-17 April 1959 (see Tab D) may open the United States to similar charges of increasing tensions.

RECOMMENDATION

(U) That the Department of the Army not release this information on Soviet maneuvers but that the matter be discussed informally at the next meeting of the DOD Coordinating Group (Cold War).

COORDINATION

ACSI - concur - J.J. Davis, BG, ext 73398

APPROVED - C/S US ARMY

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1. Tab A, Unofficial Press Release

2. Tab B. Soviet Maneuvers

3. Tab C, Extracts 4. Tab D, NATO Exercise

Regarded CON March 1962

J. E. MOORE Lieutenant General, GS Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations

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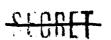
Tab A

Unofficial From Release

According to Rest German refugees, the Soviets are currently carrying out large scale army maneuvers in Rest Germany. Hassive tenk forces are involved in the most extensive troop exercises ever seen this early in the year. Further, East German Army units are earrying out alarming out-of-season field emercises in the same area. Soviet forces in East Germany consist of 20 armored type divisions. The East German Army has an additional six combat-ready divisions.

The purpose of the release is to point out the inconsistencies of Soviet statements and actions. Large scale sovements into the field can only be interpreted as moves of attempted intimidation and war of moves activity. It certainly is not consistent with Khrushebev's recent statements at the news conference, 19 March 1959, calling for peaceful deliberations and calm magnificance.

Regrade UNCLASSIFIED upon approval of Summary Shoot.



Tab B

Sovieta Conduct Army Level Field Exercise in East Cornery (C)

USAREUR reports that the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany (GSFG), is condusting an Army level field training exercise, possibly involving elements of five line divisions from three ground Armies. The activity is being conducted in an area approximately 20 miles continues of Berlin, which has been restricted to travel by Allied military missions for the period 15-24 Harch. Concurrently with the Soviet activity, there are reports that elements of three divisions of the East German Army either are participating in this emercise or are conducting separate training activity in the same general area.

Although the scope of the Soviet activity cannot as yet be definitely determined, preliminary analysis suggests that elements of the First Guards Tank Army compase the major force in the exercise and elements of one meterised rifle division of the unidentified (Em-Third Guards Mechanised) Army is participating in the role of opposing force. Observation of movement into the area of activity also indicate that elements of one line division of the Eighth Guards Army is involved as a command post exercise type participant.

community of the steging of exercise activity of the scope indicated at this period of the training year is a departure from the normal training pattern and may indicate Seviet efforts to ascertain the current operational capabilities of CSFC units. If subsequent reports confirm participation by the East German Army units, it would probably reflect efforts to bring East German Army units to the highest possible state of combat readiness in connection with the current Serlin tension.

Tab C

Extracts of Premier Khrushchev's News Conference 19 March 1959

The international climate can and must be cleared. The only thing we are seeking is to have the storm clouds of a new war disappear from the international horison forever . . .

"We are pleased to note that our poace policy is being increasingly appreciated by the peoples of all nations.

Whe value this very much and we shall do all in our power to put an end to the after-effects of World War II, bring about the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and contribute in this way toward clearing international relations of all kinds of unmanted factors which are obstructing normal relations and a peaceful occuratence of states with different social systems. . .

"One cannot at the same time fail to notice the statements by some Western political and military leaders which distort the true nature of Soviet proposals concerning a peace treaty with Germany and Berlin, imputing aims which we do not have. The impression arises that these people still cannot abandon the methods of the Gold War. . . .

We would like the Western Governments to discard the senseless threats made against us by their generals and admirals and to sit down at a conference table with us. . .

"We shall do everything in our power to make the talks a success."

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Tab D

NATO Exercise

During the period 13-17 April 1959 NATO forces will be involved in the annual atomic exercise at about the same scope as carried out each year. This exercise is designed to test the combined joint-atomic strike plan and air defense plan and will utilise forces available at the time the exercise begins. These forces will include ground and air stomic strike forces in addition to air defense forces. Other forces will conduct a command post exercise down to echelous designated by regional ecommenders.

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(Date or event)